

Approved Minutes
Friend of the Court Bureau
Advisory Committee Annual Meeting
State Court Administrative Office - Lansing, MI
Thursday, July 8, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Bill Brooks, Murray Davis, Patti Holden, Anthony Paruk, Gail Schneider-Negrinelli, and Suzanne Hoseth,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nadine Klein, Hon. Mabel Mayfield, Fred Lebowitz, and Lynn Bullard

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Beeman, Bill Bartels, Tim Cole, and Darla Brandon

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brooks at 9:57 a.m.

2. ROUTINE BUSINESS

a. Approval of the April 22, 2004 Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Paruk and seconded by Ms. Negrinelli to approve the Minutes as submitted. **Motion passed unanimously.**

b. Public Comment

- Dan Diebolt of Washtenaw County. He provided the Committee with handouts for review of Court Appointed Scientific Experts Handbook for Judges, Version 2.0 and 3.0 as well as a copy of the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers pertaining to the Custody Evaluation and Investigation Subcommittee for deliberation. He discussed the status of conciliation with respect to mediators and conciliators.
- Mr. Jules Hanslovsky of Okemos, MI discussed violation of parenting time enforcement.

Mr. Paruk suggested that a compilation of studies from non-legal professionals with education in Human Services degrees.

c. Correspondence - There was no correspondence.

d. Subcommittee Reports

- i. Child Evaluation & Investigation Subcommittee - The subcommittee will report back to the Advisory Committee at the next October meeting.

Child Custody Evaluators - No Report.

e. Bureau Update

- i. CDR project - Mr. Cole informed the Committee that there are 21 regional centers throughout the state funded by a grant administered by the SCAO. These centers offer free mediation services to those who would like to avoid litigation. The C.J. would like the CDR Centers to become more involved with the FOCs. The pilot counties are Charlevoix, Genesee, Oakland and Wayne which will begin mid September thru mid December. An LAO would court order the parties to attend mediation in cases that meet specific criteria. The pilot counties have been requested to send in a minimum of 100 parenting time complaints within the three month pilot period. These mediators are volunteers and will have to go through the SCAO Mediation training.
- ii. Parenting Time work group - Mr. Cole informed the Committee that a portion of the Access & Visitation grant money will be used to establish a parenting time workgroup to improve the quality and services provided by the FOC. The workgroup will be comprised of FOCs, FIA, trained mediators in the private sector, MSW's licensed psychologists. The goals are to look at SCAO publications, training and looking at other pilot projects.
- iii. Annual Grievance Report - Mr. Cole informed the Committee that this year the FOCs were asked to submit their reports electronically. There has been a substantive increase in grievances filed, almost 60%. The statute requires that the FOCs are required to submit grievance reports biannually.
- iv. Military Reservist website - Ms. Beeman provided the Committee with a handout referencing the Reserve and National Guard Soldiers called to active military duty. The website is located at:
http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/focb/military_main.htm .

Mr. Davis made a request to add a status update on the Child Support Formula Manual to the Bureau Update of the Advisory Committee Agenda.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Customer service report - tabled for next meeting.

- b. Year end report - Mr. Lebowitz e-mailed a draft to the Committee 4/23/04 for review the recommendations tabled for next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Attendance/Absence - The Committee reviewed the By-Laws with respect to absences. For future meetings, absences will be tracked and excused or unexcused accordingly.

5. CLOSING

- a. Members Closing Comments – None.
- b. Final Public Comment – Mr. Deibolt discussed custody evaluations factors. Mr. Hanoskvy discussed changing the word Custody to Parenting Time.
- c. Next Meeting – October 7, 2004
- d. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Brandon
Friend of the Court Bureau